

## **REMARKS**

In the Official Action mailed on **6 June 2006**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-24. Claims 1-2, 12-14, 21, and 23 were rejected under 102(b) as being unpatentable over DeBrosse et al (USPN 5,534,732 hereinafter, "DeBrosse"). Claims 3-8, 15-16, 18-19, 22, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeBrosse, in view of Keeth (USPN 6,043,562, hereinafter "Keeth"). Claim 20 was allowed. Claims 9-11 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

**Independent claims 1, 13, 21, and 23** were rejected as being unpatentable over DeBrosse. Independent claims 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeBrosse, in view of Keeth.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 13 to include allowable limitations from claims 9 and 17, respectively. Dependent claims 2-6, 7-11, and 14-24 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 25-27, dependent upon claim 13, have been added to parallel the limitations of claims 7, 8, and 12.


Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 13 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 7-8 and 12, which depend upon claim 1, and claims 25-27, which depend upon claim 13, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

**CONCLUSION**

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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